

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/667,378

Attorney Docket No.: Q77002

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace Figs. 11 and 12 with the following replacement drawings submitted herewith.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. By this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 7, 9, and 10, and incorporated the features of claims 7 and 9 into independent claims 1, 11, and 14. No new matter has been added to the claims. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-6, 8, and 11-16 are all the claims pending in the application. In response to the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

**I. Preliminary matters**

**A. Information Disclosure Statement**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning a copy of the form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on September 23, 2003.

**B. Priority**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority and verifying that a certified copy of the priority document was received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

**C. Drawings**

The Examiner has objected to the drawings and asserts that FIGS. 11 and 12 should be labeled as "Prior Art". Applicant has labeled FIGS. 11 and 12 --RELATED ART--.

Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the objection to the drawings.

The Examiner asserts that the drawings do not show “the taper wall formed in an annular form” as recited in claim 3. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner.

FIG. 10A clearly shows the taper wall (96) formed in a circular or ring (annular) manner along an inner surface of the reel hub (60). Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings adequately show each feature of claim 3. Therefore, the Examiner is requested to remove the drawing objection in the next Office Action.

The Examiner also asserts that the drawings do not show “the taper wall...offset from the plurality of projections at an inner peripheral surface side of the reel hub” as recited in claim 10. by this Amendment, Applicant has cancelled claim 10. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings with respect to claim 10 has been rendered moot.

#### **D. Claim Objection**

The Examiner has objected to claim 1 because of a typographical error. Applicant has amended claim 1 in order to correct this typographical error. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to remove the drawing objection in the next Office Action.

## **II. Status of the claims**

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 1-6 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lammers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,366,173, hereafter “Lammers”). Claims 1, 2, and 4-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C

§ 102(e) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,462,905, hereafter “Takahashi”).

### **III. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection**

The Examiner has rejected claim 4 because the phrase “addendum of the braking gear” is allegedly indefinite. Applicant has amended claim 4 in order to improve clarity. No new matter has been added.

### **IV. Prior Art Rejections**

#### **A. The Present Invention**

The present invention relates to a recording tape a recording tape cartridge (10) comprising a reel (14) which is accommodated in a case (16, 18). Gear teeth (66) (page 28, lines 2-19) are provided, along a circumference which is substantially coaxial with a reel hub around which a recording tape (T) is wound, at a floor portion of the reel hub (pages 27-28). A braking member (74) is formed in a disc-shape, and a braking gear (74A) which can mesh with the gear teeth, is provided at one surface of the braking member (74), and the braking member approaches and moves away from the floor portion in the reel hub so as to be positioned at a meshing position, at which the braking gear meshes with the gear teeth, and a released position at which a meshed state of the braking gear and the gear teeth is released (page 31, lines 1-6). A taper wall (96) stands erect at the floor portion along a circumference which has a greater

diameter than an outer diameter of the braking member and which is substantially coaxial with the reel hub (FIGS. 9 and 10). The taper wall (96) guides the braking member (74) to the meshing position at which the braking gear meshes with the gear teeth (pages 35-36).

#### **B. Disclosure of Lammers**

Lammers generally discloses a reel brake (34) of a single-reel cartridge which is released by a contact member (28) positioned in contact with a reel brake release button 32. One embodiment places a spindle (52) in a centering cone (26) of a hub which operatively engages the tape reel (column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 57). The centering cone (26) rotates relative to the spindle (52) which is in stationary contact with the release button (32).

#### **C. Disclosure of Takahashi**

Takahashi generally discloses a tape cartridge which includes a magnetic tape wound around a single reel (2); a cartridge casing (3) in which the reel is housed for rotation, and a reel stopper (10) which prevents the reel from rotating when the magnetic tape is not being used and releases the reel to permit rotation when the tape is being used (column 5, lines 14-25). The reel stopper includes a braking member (4) which is movable up and down between a locking position where it is in contact with the reel (2) to restrict rotation of the reel (2) and a releasing position where it is away from the reel (2) to permit rotation of the reel (column 5, lines 50-59).

#### **D. Analysis**

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-6 and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lammers, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6, 14, and 15 are not anticipated by Lammers.

To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. See MPEP § 2131. Moreover, “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989), cited in MPEP § 2131

There is no teaching or suggestion in Lammers of a taper wall standing erect at the floor portion along a circumference which has a greater diameter than an outer diameter of the braking member and which is substantially coaxial with the reel hub, wherein the taper wall guides the braking member to the meshing position at which the braking gear meshes with the gear teeth as recited in claim 1 and analogously recited in claim 14. The Examiner merely broadly cites FIG. 5 of Lammers as allegedly disclosing this feature of claim 1 and 14. However, there is no disclosure in FIG. 5 of a taper wall which guides the brake member (32) to a meshing position. Accordingly, claims 1 and 14 should be allowable over Lammers, because the cited reference does not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims. Claims 2-6, 8, 15, and 16 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1 and 14.

With respect to amended claims 1, 11, and 14, there is no teaching or suggestion (nor does the Examiner provide specific support) in Lammers of “a plurality of projections at the floor portion of the reel hub, and the gear teeth are provided at distal ends of the plurality of projections, wherein the taper wall is provided integrally with the plurality of projections at an inner peripheral surface side of the reel hub” as recited in amended independent claim 1 and analogously recited in amended independent claims 11 and 14.

Similarly with respect to Takahashi, there is no teaching or suggestion (nor does the Examiner provide specific support) in Takahashi of “a plurality of projections at the floor portion of the reel hub, and the gear teeth are provided at distal ends of the plurality of projections, wherein the taper wall is provided integrally with the plurality of projections at an inner peripheral surface side of the reel hub” as recited in amended independent claim 1 and analogously recited in amended independent claims 11 and 14. As shown in FIG. 3 of Takahashi, the guide members 39 and the projections 27 are formed separately from each other. There is no teaching or suggestion in Takahashi that “the taper wall is provided integrally with the plurality of projections” as recited in independent claim 1 and analogously recited in independent claims 11 and 14.

Accordingly, claims 1, 11, and 14 should be allowable over Lammers and Takahashi, because the cited references, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the features of the claims. Claims 2-6, 8, 12, 13, 15, and 16 should also be allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 1, 11, and 14.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant files concurrently herewith a Petition (with fee) for an Extension of Time of one month, thereby extending the time for response to **February 4, 2007**. Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this application, and any required fee for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and/or § 1.17 necessary to keep this application pending in the Patent and Trademark Office or credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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